

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHT REPORT - OCTOBER 1969
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS DIVISION

SECRET - COMPANY CONFIDENTIAL

I. INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS (South Bound Brook)

A. Felts and Papers

Laboratory work has been completed on the formulation of an asbestos-SBR binder gasketing paper which is comparable to the Armstrong sheet and meets potential customer specifications. A plant run will be scheduled.

All leading competitive 15 lb. asphalt saturated asbestos felts were compared with the GAF product. Only slight differences were found between these felts with the Johns-Manville sheet being superior in cross machine tensile and tear strength. Laboratory work on improving these properties has shown that better addition of Accostrength resin in small quantities will result in a significant improvement in both characteristics. A plant trial is now planned with the modified formulation.

B. Asbestos Flooring Felt

The Erie trial run using TCD carboxylated latex #400-76E yielded seven and a half tons of felt for evaluation at Whitehall. Physical properties of the sheet were equal or superior to the standard product. Attempts to obtain high stock temperatures at precipitation and in the machine vats with temporary equipment were successful but erratic at times. It is believed this fluctuation caused periodic "cylinder peels", which necessitated three shut-downs during the run. Based on this initial experience, however, R&D personnel believe that this formulation can be run continuously with water temperature control and more operating experience. The five test rolls are now being evaluated in the Sheet Vinyl operation and depending on the results, a repeat run will be scheduled to overcome the operating problems.

Tests at Whitehall using Erie felt made with Philip Carey asbestos showed the sheet was satisfactory in all respects except for significantly lower tear strength. The previously run test felt was adequate in this respect. Whitehall has recommended that a more extensive trial run be made with this alternate fiber furnish before it is adapted as standard. Arrangements to do this are now being made.

C. Automotive

Modifications of the moldable mastic formulation were studied in the laboratory to improve flexibility without adversely affecting shape retention. The necessary materials have been ordered to make a production run of the mastic sheet for post-forming development work. Various outside organizations are being contacted to determine whether they will vacuum form the desired automotive part shapes.

D. Insulation

Studies have been conducted on equipment to pulverize Calsilite scrap for reuse in the gel formulation. Tests made on the Pallmann Pulverizer Company unit indicate it can prepare the waste satisfactorily. Asbestos flooring felt trim was also treated in the pulverizer and this processed waste is being evaluated in the laboratory.